



Montana Public Service Commission
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PSC SCHEDULES HEARINGS JUNE 1 IN CUT BANK ON CUT BANK GAS'S RATE CASE

The state Public Service Commission will hold a hearing in Cut Bank on Thursday, June 1, concerning Cut Bank Gas's request to increase its natural gas rates and a proposed settlement agreement between Cut Bank Gas and the Montana Consumer Counsel.

The hearing will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Glacier Electric Co-op Building, 410 East Main Street. An evening session for the convenience of the general public will also be held that day at 6 p.m. in the same location.

The PSC granted an emergency \$155,615 interim increase in Cut Bank Gas's annual revenues to be collected from an increase in the company's monthly service charge from \$7.55 to \$18.02 beginning April 1.

On May 8, Cut Bank Gas and the Montana Consumer Counsel submitted to the PSC a proposed *settlement agreement* that would allow a \$135,797 increase in the company's annual revenues over pre-interim levels and set the company's monthly service charge at \$13.

The rate and revenue changes proposed in the agreement represent a *decrease* from the current interim-approved levels. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, Cut Bank Gas and the Consumer Counsel will calculate and propose to the PSC the amount of the overcollection, including interest at 10.27 percent, which would be amortized and returned to Cut Bank's ratepayers over a period not to exceed 6 months.

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